

# Lincoln Cathedral

**Lincoln Cathedral**, **Lincoln Minster**, or the **Cathedral Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Lincoln** and sometimes **St Mary's Cathedral**, in Lincoln, England, is the seat of the Anglican Bishop of Lincoln. Construction commenced in 1072 and continued in several phases throughout the High Middle Ages. Like many of the medieval cathedrals of England it was built in the Early Gothic style.

Although considered doubtful by some, many historians claim it became the tallest building in the world upon the completion of its 160 metres (520 ft) high central spire in 1311; if so, it was the first building to hold that title after the Great Pyramid of Giza, and held it for 238 years until the spire collapsed in 1548.<sup>[2][3][4]</sup> The central spire collapsed in 1548 and was not rebuilt. Had the central spire remained intact, Lincoln Cathedral would have remained the world's tallest structure until the completion of the Eiffel Tower in 1889. For hundreds of years the cathedral held one of the four remaining copies of the original Magna Carta, now securely displayed in Lincoln Castle. The cathedral is the fourth largest in the UK (in floor area) at around 5,000 square metres (54,000 sq ft), after Liverpool, St Paul's and York Minster.<sup>[5]</sup> It is highly regarded by architectural scholars; the Victorian writer John Ruskin declared: "I have always held ... that the cathedral of Lincoln is out and out the most precious piece of architecture in the British Isles and roughly speaking worth any two other cathedrals we have."

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## Lincoln Cathedral

**The Cathedral Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Lincoln**



Lincoln Cathedral viewed from Lincoln Castle



Shown within Lincoln  
Building details



### Record height

Tallest in the world from 1311 to 1548<sup>[1]</sup>

<b>Preceded by</b>	<u>Great Pyramid of Giza</u>
<b>Surpassed by</b>	<u>Tower of St. Mary's</u>

<u>21st century</u>
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## History

Remigius de Fécamp, the first Bishop of Lincoln, moved the episcopal seat (cathedra) there "some time between 1072 and 1092".<sup>[6]</sup> About this, James Essex writes that "Remigius ... laid the foundations of his Cathedral in 1072" and "it is probable that he, being a Norman, employed Norman masons to superintend the building ... though he could not complete the whole before his death."<sup>[7]</sup> Before that, writes B. Winkles, "It is well known that Remigius appropriated the parish church of St Mary Magdalene in Lincoln, although it is not known what use he made of it."<sup>[8]</sup>



Model within the cathedral illustrating the cathedral's former spires

Up until then St. Mary's Church in Stow was considered to be the "mother church"<sup>[9]</sup> of Lincolnshire<sup>[10]</sup> (although it was not a cathedral, because the seat of the diocese was at Dorchester Abbey in Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire). However,

<u>Church</u>	<u>Stralsund</u>
<b>Location</b>	<u>Lincoln</u> , <u>Lincolnshire</u>
<b>Country</b>	<u>England</u>
<b>Denomination</b>	<u>Church of England</u>
<b>Tradition</b>	<u>Anglo-Catholic</u>
<b>Website</b>	<u>lincolncathedral.com</u> ( <u>http://lincolncathedral.co</u> <u>m</u> )
<b>History</b>	
<b>Dedication</b>	<u>Virgin Mary</u>
<b>Consecrated</b>	11 May 1092
<b>Architecture</b>	
<b>Style</b>	<u>Gothic</u>
<b>Years built</b>	1185–1311
<b>Groundbreaking</b>	1072 <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Specifications</b>	
<b>Length</b>	147 metres (482 ft)
<b>Width</b>	24 metres (78 ft)
<b>Nave height</b>	24 metres (78 ft)
<b>Number of towers</b>	3
<b>Tower height</b>	83 metres (272 ft) (crossing)
<b>Number of spires</b>	3 (now lost)
<b>Spire height</b>	160 metres (520 ft) (crossing tower)
<b>Bells</b>	20 (spread over three towers)
<b>Administration</b>	
<b>Diocese</b>	<u>Lincoln</u> (since 1072)
<b>Province</b>	<u>Canterbury</u>
<b>Clergy</b>	
<b>Dean</b>	<u>Christine Wilson</u>
<b>Subdean</b>	John Patrick
<b>Precentor</b>	Vacant
<b>Chancellor</b>	Paul Overend
<b>Laity</b>	
<b>Director of</b>	Aric Prentice



17th century print of Lincoln Cathedral with spires on the west towers

Lincoln was more central to a diocese that stretched from the Thames to the Humber.

#### music

Organist(s)

Jeffrey Makinson

Chapter clerk

William Harrison

Remigius built the first Lincoln Cathedral on the present site, finishing it in 1092 and then dying on 7 May of that year,<sup>[12]</sup> two days before it was consecrated. In 1124, the timber roofing was destroyed in a fire. Alexander (bishop, 1123–

48) rebuilt and expanded the cathedral, but it was mostly destroyed by an earthquake about forty years later, in 1185 (dated by the British Geological Survey as occurring 15 April 1185).<sup>[8][13]</sup> The earthquake was one of the largest felt in the UK: it has an estimated magnitude of over 5. The damage to the cathedral is thought to have been very extensive: the Cathedral is described as having "split from top to bottom"; in the current building, only the lower part of the west end and its two attached towers remain of the pre-earthquake cathedral.<sup>[13]</sup> Some (Kidson, 1986; Woo, 1991) have suggested that the damage to Lincoln Cathedral was probably exaggerated by poor construction or design, with the actual collapse most probably caused by a vault failure.<sup>[13]</sup>

After the earthquake, a new bishop was appointed. He was Hugh de Burgundy of Avalon, France, who became known as St Hugh of Lincoln. He began a massive rebuilding and expansion programme. With his appointment of William de Montibus as master of the cathedral school and chancellor, Lincoln briefly became one of the leading educational centres in England, producing writers such as Samuel Presbiter and Richard of Wetheringsett, though it declined in importance after William's death in 1213.<sup>[14]</sup> Rebuilding began with the choir (St Hugh's Choir) and the eastern transepts between 1192 and 1210.<sup>[15]</sup> The central nave was then built in the Early English Gothic architectural style. Lincoln Cathedral soon followed other architectural advances of the time – pointed arches, flying buttresses and ribbed vaulting were added to the cathedral. This allowed support for incorporating larger windows. There are thirteen bells in the south-west tower, two in the north-west tower, and five in the central tower (including Great Tom). Accompanying the cathedral's large bell, Great Tom of Lincoln, is a quarter-hour striking clock. The clock was installed in the early 19th century.<sup>[16]</sup> The two large stained glass rose windows, the matching Dean's Eye and Bishop's Eye, were added to the cathedral during the late Middle Ages. The former, the Dean's Eye in the north transept dates from the 1192 rebuild begun by St Hugh, finally being completed in 1235. The latter, the Bishop's Eye, in the south transept was reconstructed a hundred years later in 1330.<sup>[17]</sup> A contemporary record, "The Metrical Life of St Hugh", refers to the meaning of these two windows (one on the dark, north, side and the other on the light, south, side of the building):

"For north represents the devil, and south the Holy Spirit and it is in these directions that the two eyes look. The bishop faces the south in order to invite in and the dean the north in order to shun; the one takes care to be saved, the other takes care not to perish. With these Eyes the cathedral's face is on watch for the candelabra of Heaven and the darkness of Lethe (oblivion)."

#### External video



Lincoln Cathedral (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TuA00wpXaYA>), 10:44, 15 July 2017  
Smarthistory<sup>[11]</sup>

Lincoln Cathedral Organ Refurbishment 2017 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gxP9TEhMHk>), 9:17, 7 July 2017, Lincoln Cathedral

After the additions of the Dean's eye and other major Gothic additions it is believed some mistakes in the support of the tower occurred, for in 1237 the main tower collapsed. A new tower was soon started and in 1255 the Cathedral petitioned Henry III to allow them to take down part of the town wall to enlarge and expand the Cathedral, including the rebuilding of the central tower and spire. They replaced the small rounded chapels (built at the time of St Hugh) with a larger east end to the cathedral. This was to handle the increasing number of pilgrims to the Cathedral, who came to worship at the shrine of Hugh of Lincoln.

In 1290 Eleanor of Castile died and King Edward I of England decided to honour her, his Queen Consort, with an elegant funeral procession. After her body had been embalmed, which in the 13th century involved evisceration, Eleanor's viscera were buried in Lincoln cathedral and Edward placed a duplicate of the Westminster Abbey tomb there. The Lincoln tomb's original stone chest survives; its effigy was destroyed in the 17th century and replaced with a 19th-century copy. On the outside of Lincoln Cathedral are two prominent statues often identified as Edward and Eleanor, but these images were heavily restored in the 19th century and they were probably not originally intended to depict the couple.

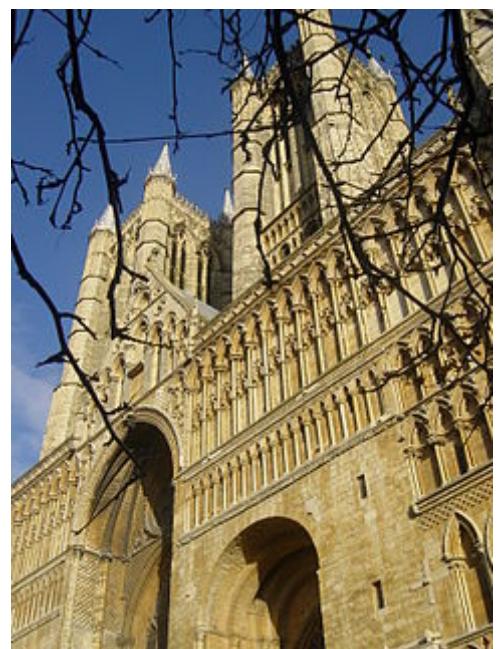
Between 1307 and 1311 the central tower was raised to its present height of 271 feet (83 m). The western towers and front of the cathedral were also improved and heightened. At this time, a tall lead-encased wooden spire topped the central tower but was blown down in a storm in 1548. With its spire, the tower reputedly reached a height of 525 feet (160 m) (which would have made it the world's tallest structure, surpassing the Great Pyramid of Giza, which held the record for almost 4,000 years). Although still doubted,<sup>[2]</sup> this is the height agreed upon by the majority of historians.<sup>[18][19][20]</sup>

Other additions to the cathedral at this time included its elaborate carved screen and the 14th-century misericords, as was the Angel Choir. For a large part of the length of the cathedral, the walls have arches in relief with a second layer in front to give the illusion of a passageway along the wall. However the illusion does not work, as the stonemason, copying techniques from France, did not make the arches the correct length needed for the illusion to be effective.

In 1398 John of Gaunt and Katherine Swynford founded a chantry in the cathedral to pray for the welfare of their souls. In the 15th century the building of the cathedral turned to chantry or memorial chapels. The chapels next to the Angel Choir were built in the Perpendicular style, with an emphasis on strong vertical lines, which survive today in the window tracery and wall panelling.



Main door of the cathedral



Norman West front

## Magna Carta

Hugh of Wells, Bishop of Lincoln, was one of the signatories to Magna Carta and for hundreds of years the cathedral held one of the four remaining copies of the original, now securely displayed in Lincoln Castle.<sup>[21]</sup>

The Lincoln Magna Carta was on display at the British Pavilion during the 1939 New York World's Fair.<sup>[22]</sup> In March 1941, the Foreign Office proposed that the Lincoln Magna Carta be gifted to the United States, citing the "many thousands of Americans who waited in long queues to view it" and the US passage of the Lend-Lease Act, among other reasons.<sup>[22]</sup> In 2009 the Lincoln Magna Carta was lent to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California.<sup>[21]</sup>

There are three other surviving copies: two at the British Library and one at Salisbury Cathedral.<sup>[23]</sup>

## Little Saint Hugh

In August 1255 the body of an eight-year-old boy was found in a well in Lincoln. He had been missing for nearly a month. This incident became the source of a blood libel in the city, with Jews accused of his abduction, torture, and murder. Many Jews were arrested and eighteen were hanged. The boy became known as Little Saint Hugh, to distinguish him from Saint Hugh of Lincoln, but he was never officially canonised.

The cathedral benefited from these events because Hugh was seen as a martyr, and many devotees came to the city and cathedral to venerate him. Geoffrey Chaucer mentions the case in "The Prioress's Tale" and a ballad was written about it in 1783. In 1955 a plaque was put up near "the remains of the shrine of 'Little St Hugh'" in the cathedral, that decries the "Trumped up stories of 'ritual murders' of Christian boys by Jewish communities."

## Features

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### Lincoln Imp

One of the stone carvings within the cathedral is the Lincoln Imp. There are several variations of the legend surrounding the figure. According to 14th-century legend, two mischievous imps were sent by Satan to do evil work on Earth. After causing mayhem elsewhere in Northern England the two imps headed to Lincoln Cathedral, where they smashed tables and chairs and tripped up the Bishop. An angel appeared in the Angel Choir and ordered them to stop. One of the imps sat atop a stone pillar and started throwing stones at the angel whilst the other cowered under the broken tables and chairs. The angel turned the first imp to stone, allowing the second imp to escape. The imp that turned to stone can still be found sitting atop his stone column in the Angel Choir. They also are one of the many carved animals on the structure.



The Lincoln Imp

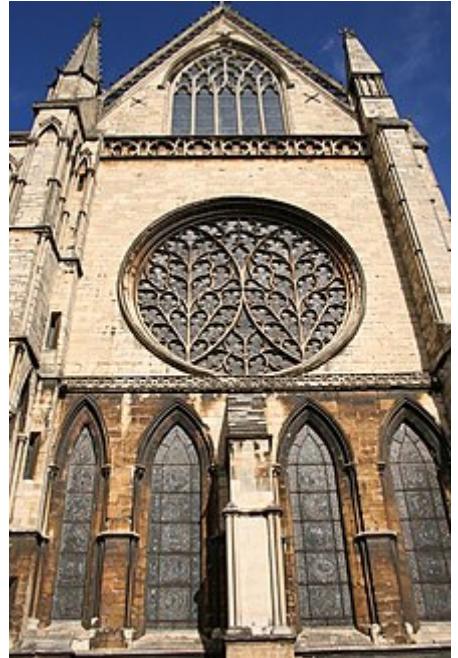
### Wren library

The Wren Library houses a rare collection of over 277 manuscripts, including the text of the Venerable Bede.

### Rose windows

Lincoln Cathedral features two major rose windows, which are a highly uncommon feature among medieval architecture in England. On the north side of the cathedral there is the "Dean's Eye" which survives from the original structure of the building and on the south side there is the "Bishop's Eye" which was most likely

rebuilt circa 1325–1350. This south window is one of the largest examples of curvilinear tracery seen in medieval architecture. Curvilinear tracery is a form of tracery where the patterns are continuous curves. This form was often done within pointed arches and squared windows because those are the easiest shapes, so the circular space of the window was a unique challenge to the designers. A solution was created that called for the circle to be divided into smaller shapes that would make it simpler to design and create. Curves were drawn within the window which created four distinct areas of the circle. This made the spaces within the circle where the tracery would go much smaller, and easier to work with. This window is also interesting and unique in that the focus of the tracery was shifted away from the centre of the circle and instead placed in other sections. The glazing of the window was equally difficult as the tracery for many of the same reason; therefore, the designers made a decision to cut back on the amount of iconography within the window. Most cathedral windows during this time displayed many colourful images of the Bible; however, at Lincoln there are very few images. Some of those images that can be seen within the window include saints Paul, Andrew, and James.



The Bishop's Eye rose window

## Wooden trusses

Wooden trusses offer a solid and reliable source of support for building because, through their joints, they are able to resist damage and remain strong. Triangles are the strongest shape because, no matter where the force is being placed on them, they are able to use their three joints to their fullest extent to withstand it. Making trusses with triangles inside larger triangles adds even more strength, as seen in Lincoln's choir. The design of all wooden trusses is a tedious task as there are many different things that need to be considered while building these supports. There are many different ways that the trusses can fail, if they are not designed or built properly; it is therefore crucial to design trusses that suit a specific building with specific needs in mind. The simplest form of a truss is an A-frame; however, the great amount of outward thrust generated by this often causes the truss to fail. The addition of a tie beam creates a triangular shape, although this beam can sometimes sag if the overall truss is too large. Neither one of these types would have been suitable for Lincoln, owing to the sheer size of the roof. They would have failed to support the building, so collar beams and queen posts were added to help prevent sagging. To protect against wind damage, braces were added. Secondary rafters were also added to the design to ensure that the weight was equally distributed. Saint Hugh's Choir has a total of thirty six trusses keeping the roof in place, and it is held up entirely by means of its own weight and forces.

## Vaults

One major architectural feature of Lincoln Cathedral are the spectacular vaults. The varying vaults within the cathedral are said to be both original and experimental. The vaults especially, clearly define the experimental aspect seen at Lincoln. There are several different kinds of vaults that differ between the nave, aisles, choir, and chapels of the cathedral. Along the North Aisle there is a continuous ridge rib with a regular arcade that ignores the bays. Meanwhile, on the South Aisle there is a discontinuous ridge rib that puts an emphasis on each separate bay. The North West Chapel has quadripartite vaults and the South Chapel has vaults that stem from one central support columns. The use of sexpartite vaults allowed for more natural light to enter the cathedral through the clerestory windows, which were placed inside of each separate bay.



Lincoln Cathedral  
"crazy vaults"

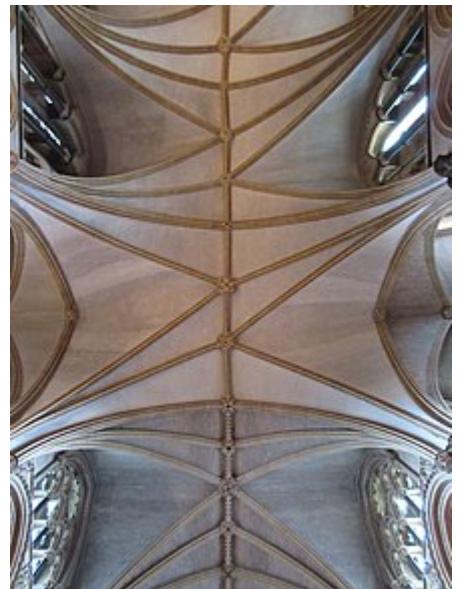
Saint Hugh's Choir exhibits extremely unusual vaults. It is a series of asymmetrical vaults that appear to almost be a diagonal line created by two ribs on one side translating into only a single rib on the other side of the vault. This pattern divides up the space of the vaults and bays, perfectly placing the emphasis on the bays. The chapter house vaults are also interesting. It is a decagonal building with a single, central column that twenty ribs rise from. Each separate area of Lincoln can be identified solely by the different vaults of the space. Each vault, or each variation of the vault, is fresh and original. The vaults are attributed to French-Norman master mason Geoffrey de Noiers.<sup>[24][25]</sup> de Noiers was succeeded by Alexander the Mason, who developed the nave's more elaborate, but symmetrical tierceron vaulting, the crossing vaulting, Galilee Porch and western facade screen.<sup>[26][27]</sup>

## Tower clock

A clock by John Thwaite<sup>[28]</sup> was installed in the north west tower in 1775. This was later improved by Benjamin Vulliamy and moved to the broad tower around 1835. It was replaced in 1880 by a new clock under the instruction of Edmund Beckett QC. The clock was built by Potts and Sons of Leeds. Cambridge Chimes were a feature of the new clock.<sup>[29]</sup> The clock featured a double three-legged gravity escapement to the designs of Edmund Beckett. The machinery weighs about 4 long tons (4.5 short tons), with the driving weights being 1.5 long tons (1.7 short tons), suspended by steel-wire ropes 270 feet (82 m) long, and the pendulum weight of 2 long hundredweight (100 kg). The beat is 1.5 seconds. The hour hammer is 224 pounds (102 kg), striking upon Great Tom. The striking trains require winding daily, when done manually it took 20 minutes. The going train required winding twice per week. The clock mechanism contains the inscription *Quod bene vortat Deus Opt. Max., Consiliis Edmundi Beckett, Baronetti, LL.D., Opera Gul. Potts et Filiorum, civium Leodiensium, Sumptibus Decani et Capituli, Novum in Turri positum est Horologium, A.D. MDCCCLXXX.*



Vault of Angel Choir



Crossing of Secondary transept

## Modern history

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### Wartime history

Lincolnshire was home to many Bomber Command airfields during the Second World War, giving rise to the nickname of "Bomber County".<sup>[30]</sup> The station badge for the nearby RAF Waddington depicts Lincoln Cathedral rising through the clouds.<sup>[31]</sup> Until the opening of the RAF Bomber Command Memorial in 2012, the cathedral had the only memorial in the United Kingdom dedicated to Bomber Command's large losses of aircrew<sup>[32]</sup> in the Second World War.<sup>[33]</sup>

During the war, "priceless British treasures" were placed in a chamber sixty feet beneath the cathedral for safekeeping.<sup>[34]</sup> This did not include the cathedral's copy of the Magna Carta as it was on loan in the United States.<sup>[34]</sup>

## 21st century

Maintaining the cathedral costs £1.6 million a year.<sup>[35]</sup> A major renovation of the West Front was done in 2000. It was discovered that the flying buttresses on the east end were no longer connected to the adjoining stonework, and repairs were made to prevent collapse. The most recent problem was the discovery that the stonework of the Dean's Eye window in the transept was crumbling, meaning that a complete reconstruction of the window has had to be carried out according to the conservation criteria set out by the International Council on Monuments and Sites.

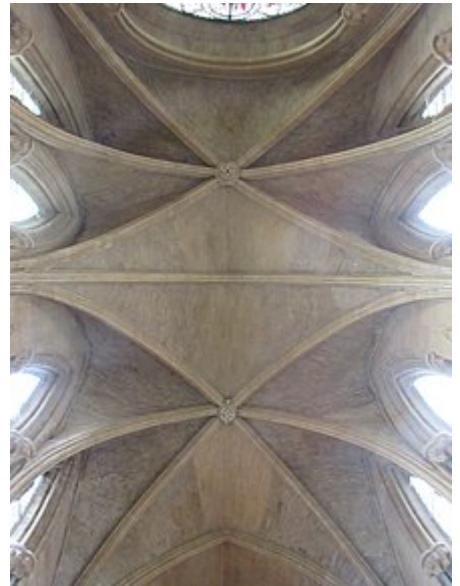
There was a period of great anxiety when it emerged that the stonework needed to shift only 5 mm (0.20 in) for the entire window to collapse. Specialist engineers removed the window's tracery before installing a strengthened, more stable replacement. In addition to this the original stained glass was cleaned and set behind a new clear isothermal glass which offers better protection from the elements. By April 2006 the renovation project was completed at a cost of £2 million.

Recently, concerns have been growing once more about the state of the West Front, as there has been some stonework falling, which has raised questions as to the effectiveness of the repairs carried out in 2000.

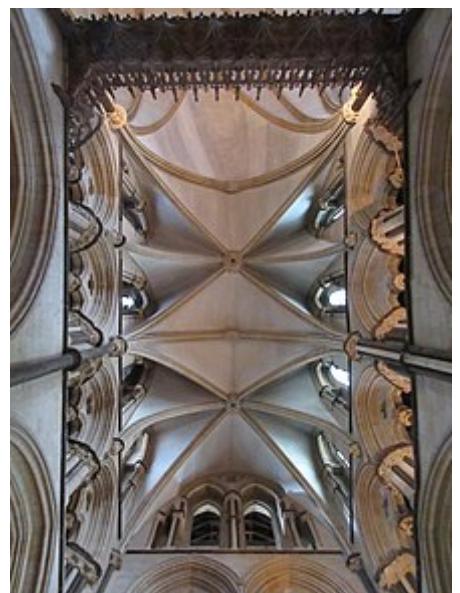
Between 2006 and 2009, 200,000 to 208,000 people visited Lincoln Cathedral annually. In 2010 the figure dropped to 150,000, making it the 16th-most visited attraction in the East Midlands.<sup>[36]</sup> The fall in visitor numbers was attributed to the cancellation of the Lincoln Christmas Market that year.<sup>[37]</sup> The admission fee is £8.00, with concessions. The Cathedral website states; "Everyone is free to enter and gaze at the glory of the nave; you can sit in the peace of the Morning Chapel or visit the shop. If you want to explore further, we do ask you to pay."<sup>[38]</sup> The cathedral offers tours of the cathedral, the tower and the roof. The peak of its season is the Lincoln Christmas Market, accompanied by a massive annual production of Handel's Messiah.<sup>[39]</sup>

An announcement in January 2020 stated that since 2016, archaeologists had found over 50 burials during the renovations, including a priest buried with a chalice and paten. Among the artifacts recovered, a coin depicts Edward the Confessor who was king from 1042 to 1066. During the dig, sections of some extensively decorated Roman buildings and related artifacts were also discovered. Some of the Roman, medieval and Saxon objects will be displayed at the visitor centre which was expected to open later in 2020.<sup>[40][41]</sup>

The cathedral was used for the filming of The Da Vinci Code (based on the book of the same name).<sup>[42]</sup> Filming took place mainly within the cloisters, and chapter house,<sup>[42]</sup> of the cathedral, and remained a closed set. The Cathedral took on the role of Westminster Abbey, as the Abbey had refused to permit filming.<sup>[42]</sup> Although there was protest at the filming,<sup>[43]</sup> the filming was completed by the end of August 2005. To make



Vault of Entrance to Chapter House



Vault of Secondary Transept

the Lincoln chapter house appear similar to the Westminster Chapter House, murals were painted on a special layer over the existing wall, and elsewhere polystyrene replicas of Isaac Newton's tomb and other Abbey monuments were set up.<sup>[42]</sup> For a time these murals and replicas remained in the Chapter House, as part of a Da Vinci Code exhibit for visitors, but in January 2008 they were all sold off in an auction to raise money for the Cathedral.<sup>[42]</sup>

The cathedral also doubled as Westminster Abbey for the film *Young Victoria*, filmed in September 2007,<sup>[44][45]</sup> and did again in June 2018 for the Netflix Shakespeare film *The King*.<sup>[46]</sup> In 2019 the cathedral was featured in the Amazon motoring television series *The Grand Tour*, during which the presenters hosted a funeral for the mid-size Ford saloon as part of the third season's final episode.

## Cathedral stone

Lincoln Cathedral is one of the few English cathedrals built from the rock it is standing on.<sup>[47]</sup> The cathedral has owned the existing quarry, on Riseholme Road, Lincoln, since 1876.<sup>[48]</sup> This quarry is expected to run out of stone in 2021.<sup>[49]</sup> The cathedral's stonemasons use more than 100 tonnes of stone per year for maintenance and repairs.<sup>[49]</sup>

## Dean and chapter

As of 29 October 2020:<sup>[50]</sup>

- Dean — Christine Wilson (installed 22 October 2016)<sup>[51]</sup>
- Subdean — John Patrick (since 4 February 2012 installation)<sup>[52][53]</sup>
- Precentor — Vacant
- Chancellor — Paul Overend (since February 2018 installation;<sup>[54][55]</sup> on leave since 14 April 2019)

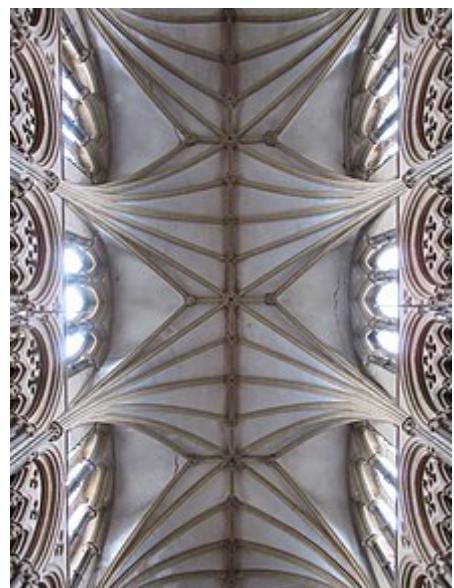
## Music

### Choir and organists

The choir is currently formed of adult singers (who are either lay vicars, choral scholars or junior choral scholars), and teams of about 20 girls and 20 boys. The cathedral accepted female choristers in 1995. Lincoln was only the second cathedral in the country to adopt a separate girls' choir (after Salisbury Cathedral) and remains one of few which provides exactly the same musical opportunities and equal weekly singing duties to both girls and boys. The choristers can now attend any school and are currently drawn from ten local schools.



Vault of Main Transepts



Vault of Nave - Lincoln Cathedral



Angel Choir Details

The director of music is Aric Prentice, who conducts the choir of boys and men; the assistant director of music and sub-organist is Jeffrey Makinson, who conducts the choir of girls and men. The organist laureate is Colin Walsh, previously organist and master of the choristers and the assistant organist is Alana Brook.

The records of cathedral organists at Lincoln are continuous from 1439 when John Ingleton was the incumbent. Notable organists have included the Renaissance composers William Byrd and John Reading and the biographer of Mendelssohn, William Thomas Freemantle.

## Organ

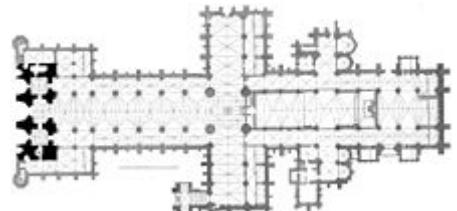
The organ is one of the finest examples of the work of "Father" Henry Willis, dating from 1898. It was Willis' last cathedral organ before his death in 1901. It has undergone two restorations, in 1960 and 1998, by Harrison & Harrison. The organ specification can be found in the National Pipe Organ Register.<sup>[56]</sup>

The installation of a new organ was made possible in 1898, after a donation by a Lincoln industrialist, Alfred Shuttleworth, of £1,000 towards the total cost of £4,675 (equivalent to £520,000 in 2019).<sup>[57]</sup> The remainder was met by several other individual donations and public subscription. The organ is one of only two Willis organs in English cathedrals which retain their original tonal scheme.

The new organ, based on Willis's 1885 design, was dedicated on St Hugh's Day, 17 November 1898. It was intended to be the first British cathedral organ to be electrically powered. As Lincoln's power station had not yet entered service, however, it had to be pumped manually by soldiers of the Lincolnshire Regiment.<sup>[58]</sup>

## Burials

- Remigius de Fécamp, Bishop of Lincoln (1072–92) — began the construction of Lincoln Cathedral, which was consecrated in 1092, two days after his death
- Robert Bloet, Lord Chancellor of England and Bishop of Lincoln (1093–1123)
- Robert de Chesney, Bishop of Lincoln (1148–66?)
- Hugh of Lincoln, Bishop of Lincoln (1186–1200) and Saint (at the time of the Reformation, the best-known English saint after Thomas Becket)
- William de Blois, Bishop of Lincoln (1203–6)
- Hugh of Wells, Bishop of Lincoln (1209–35)
- Robert Grosseteste, English statesman, scholastic philosopher, theologian and Bishop of Lincoln (1235–53)
- Queen Eleanor of Castile, wife of King Edward I, died in Lincoln 1290, monumental full effigy and escutcheoned heart and viscera tomb erected in the Angel Choir
- Katherine Swynford, Duchess of Lancaster (1350–1403), wife of John of Gaunt, 1st Duke of Lancaster (son of King Edward III of England)



Floor plan



Interior view of the crossing tower



A gilded crown recently installed on one of the towers.



Stonework commemorating the end of fox hunting – a fox can be seen hiding in the foliage.

- Joan Beaufort, Countess of Westmorland (1379–1440), wife of Ralph Neville, 1st Earl of Westmorland, daughter of the Duke & Duchess of Lancaster
- Philip Repyngdon, Bishop of Lincoln (1405–20) and Cardinal
- John Russell, Lord Privy Seal and Lord Chancellor of England, and Bishop of Lincoln (1480–94)
- William Smyth, Bishop of Lincoln (1496–1514)
- Sir Edward Lake, 1st Baronet, (1600-1674). Born in Tetney, Lincolnshire. A Lawyer, and Royalist badly wounded at the Battle of Edgehill. Died on 18 July 1674 at Bishop Norton, Lincolnshire. Buried in the Cathedral on 20 July 1674.
- William Fuller, Bishop of Lincoln (1667–75)
- William Hilton RA (1786-1839) artist
- Bishop Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885) Bishop of Lincoln
- Bishop William John Butler Bishop of Lincoln
- The Blessed Edward King (1829-1910) Regius Professor of Pastoral Theology at Oxford, Canon of Christ Church, Bishop of Lincoln 1885-1910. Buried in the Cathedral Cloister, seated statue in bronze by Sir William Blake Richmond in Lincoln Cathedral
- Sir Richard Kaye, 6th Baronet (1736-1809) Dean of Lincoln
- Viscount Harry Crookshank
- Samuel Fuller (1635-1700) Dean of Lincoln
- John Featley



Aisle at the east end

## Other memorials

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- Air Vice Marshall Sir Edward Arthur Beckton Rice (d.1948)
- Rev Charles Wilmer Foster (1866-1935) historian
- Welbore MacCarthy (1840-1925), Bishop of Grantham
- Bishop Nugent Hicks (1872-1942)

## In literature

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In Letitia Elizabeth Landon' s poem *Lincoln Cathedral* of 1836, she remarks on the derivation of Gothic tracery from 'the arches of the old oak trees'.

## Gallery

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Flying buttresses at the decagonal chapter house

12th-century carving of Adam and Eve eating apples

Typical Norman decoration on the west front



The Tournai font



The Nave



The Choir



The Chapter House

## See also

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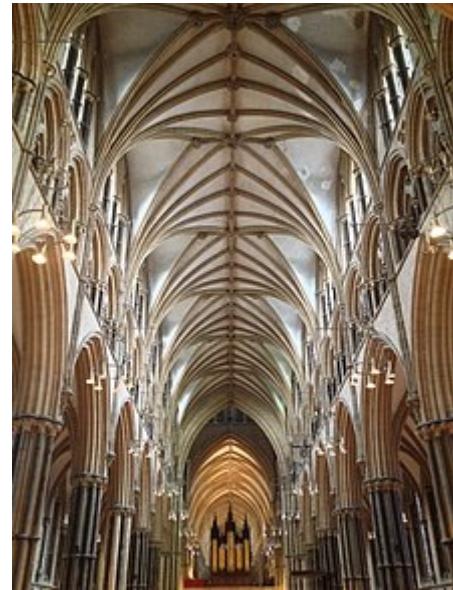
- [Lincoln Medieval Bishop's Palace](#)
- [Vicars' Court, Lincoln](#)
- [Architecture of the medieval cathedrals of England](#)
- [English Gothic architecture](#)
- [Gothic architecture](#)
- [Gothic cathedrals and churches](#)

- [List of Gothic Cathedrals in Europe](#)
- [List of cathedrals in England and Wales](#)
- [List of tallest church buildings in the world](#)
- [Romanesque architecture](#)
- [List of ecclesiastical restorations and alterations by J. L. Pearson](#)

## Notes

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Lincoln Cathedral Nave, England



Angel Choir



Bell Ringers Chapel Lincoln Cathedral

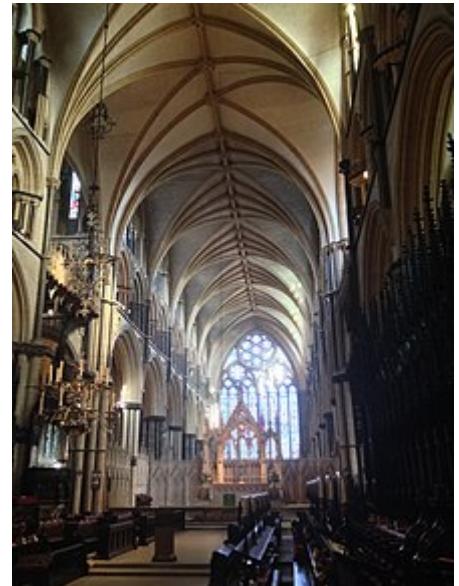
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Lincoln Cathedral Choirs



Nave Roof space Lincoln Cathedral



Lincoln Nave

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Lincoln Nave from West wall



Chapter House

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## Further reading

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- *Lincoln Cathedral*, Peter B. G. Binnall, Pitkin Publishing, ISBN 978-0-85372-203-8
- *The Grail Chronicles*, E. C. Coleman, The History Press, ISBN 978 0 7524 5532 7

## External links

- Official website (<http://www.lincolncathedral.com/%20Lincoln%20Cathedral>)
  - Lincoln Cathedral Choir & Old Choristers Association (<https://lincolncathedral.com/worship-music/lincoln-cathedral-choir-old-choristers-association/>)
  - Friends of Lincoln Cathedral (<https://lincolncathedral.com/get-involved/friends-of-lincoln-cathedral/>)
- Interactive panoramic tour of the cathedral's interior ([https://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ll=53.234355,-0.537087&spn=0.004951,0.014248&sll=53.234296,-0.536034&layer=c&cid=16330218538121317912&panoid=v7V7w9Nod\\_LrFy\\_ENMQFDQ&cbp=13,98.19,,0,0&gl=US&t=m&z=17&cbll=53.234355,-0.537087](https://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ll=53.234355,-0.537087&spn=0.004951,0.014248&sll=53.234296,-0.536034&layer=c&cid=16330218538121317912&panoid=v7V7w9Nod_LrFy_ENMQFDQ&cbp=13,98.19,,0,0&gl=US&t=m&z=17&cbll=53.234355,-0.537087))
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- Detailed historic record for Lincoln Cathedral ([http://www.pastscape.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob\\_id=326631](http://www.pastscape.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob_id=326631))

### Records

Preceded by <b>Great Pyramid of Giza</b>	<b>World's tallest structure</b> 1311–1548 160 m	Succeeded by <b>St. Mary's Church, Stralsund</b>
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